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The Curriculum

University of Michigan Law School

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The Curriculum

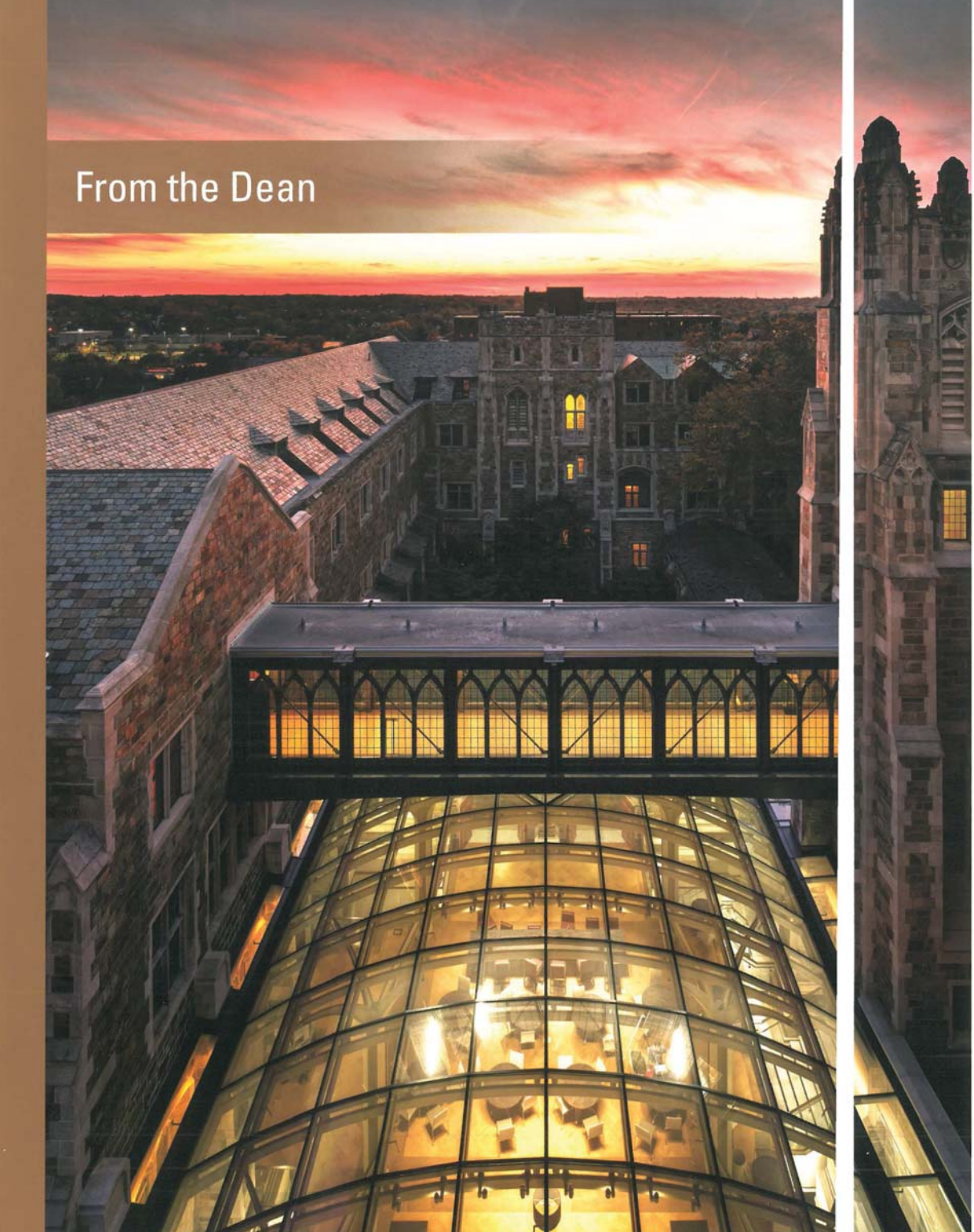


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From development of its first curriculum in 1859-60, Michigan Law's aim has been to provide a legal education that is both theoretical and pragmatic.





From the Dean

3

ALUMNI CONSTANTLY TELL ME THAT the greatest value of their Michigan Law education was the foundation it provided: the broad-ranging skills, temperament, and confidence to pursue any professional path at any time. The key was the enduring learning habits and skills Michigan Law imparted, applicable throughout life.

As we have prepared students for 150 years, we will prepare you for the wide range of career opportunities you'll explore after graduation, as well as for the reality that your interests and professional opportunities will almost assuredly change and expand over time. Moreover, we strive to ensure that you will enjoy yourself along the way. We do not provide constraining, preset curricular paths; rather, we will encourage and guide you to develop and follow your own interests, enabling specialization while encouraging exploration and experimentation. You will develop the capacity and confidence to teach yourself new areas of law, new sets of lawyering skills, and the ability to operate in new legal or professional settings, even years after you leave our classrooms and clinics. This pedagogic attitude and approach is a truly distinctive aspect of the Michigan Difference.

Evan Caminker

Evan Caminker
Dean and Branch Rickey Collegiate Professor of Law

Michigan Law:
150 Years of
Educating and
Training the
Complete
Lawyer

For many applicants, the precise nature of a law school education is a mystery, at once exciting and daunting. Chilling rumors about the Socratic method are passed around online applicant forums like ghost stories around a campfire. Browser histories reveal at least one trip to Wikipedia in search of an answer to the inevitable question of what exactly a “tort” is. But there are even more pressing and genuine concerns on many minds. What does a legal education look like? What should I seek to get out of one? What type of program will help me achieve my goals? If every one of these law schools has top programs that promise to teach me to “think like a lawyer,” what sets them apart?

Interdisciplinary. Interactive. Practical. International.

This is legal education today, Michigan Law style.

These same questions have raged in legal academia for the more than 150 years of Michigan Law’s existence. That period has witnessed legal education’s controversial shifts from clerk-apprenticeships to lectures and textbooks, to the Socratic method and case studies we see today, to three-year graduate degrees, and, more recently, to the blossoming of clinical programs. Throughout this time, though, Michigan Law’s answer has remained remarkably consistent and uniquely balanced in its values, focus, and pedagogical objectives, even as it adapts to the shifting realities and demands of the legal profession.

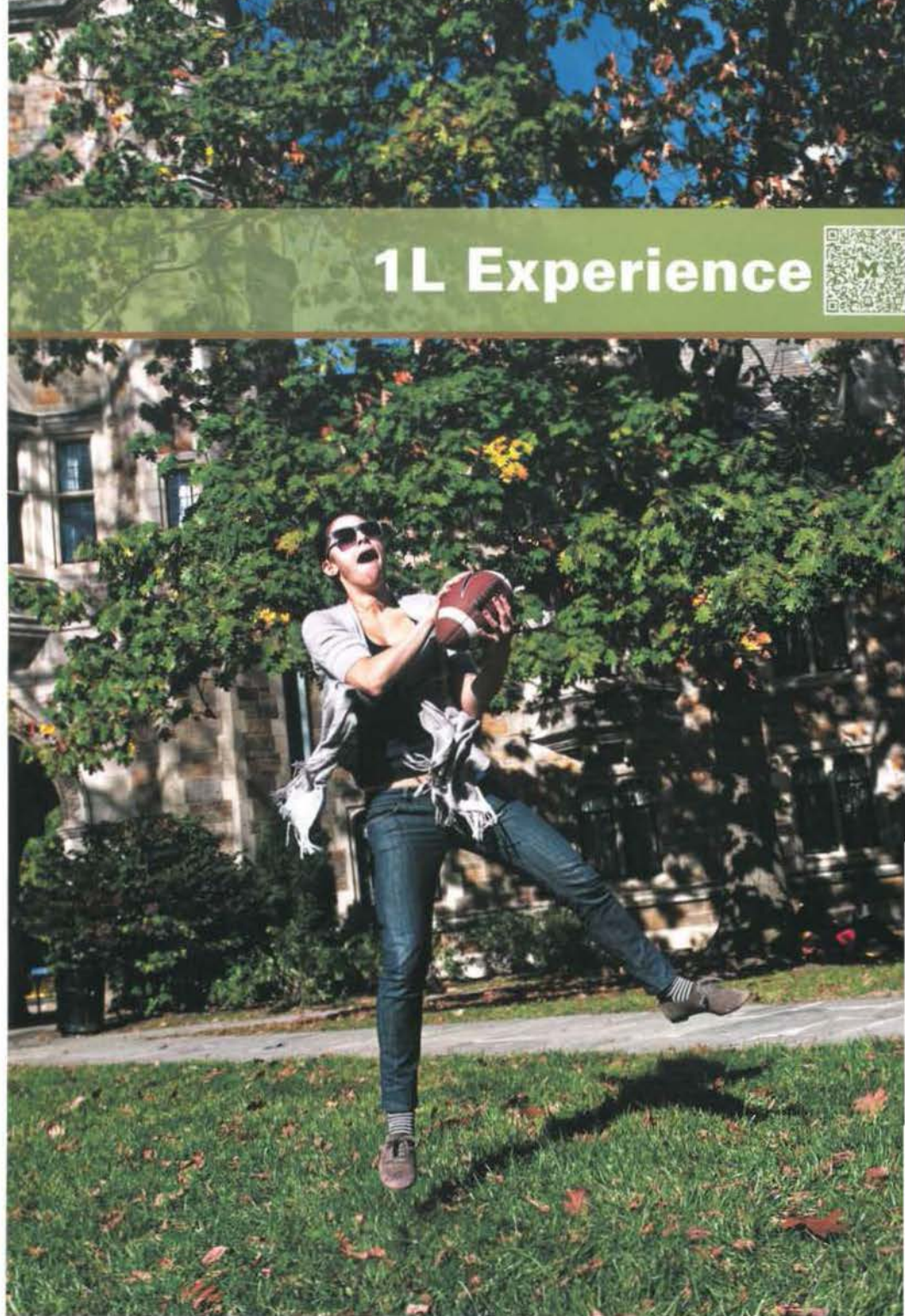
From development of its first curriculum in 1859–60, Michigan Law’s aim has been to provide a legal education that is both theoretical and pragmatic. Such an education imbues students with substantive knowledge of the history, structures, and principles of the law, as well as its conceptual and practical applications, while training them to be technically proficient and to develop exceptional judgment. Michigan Law pioneered the idea that theoretical and practical grasps of the law are both best achieved by melding perspectives from several disciplines (in 1896, the Law School offered a course in Neurology, Electrology, and Railway Injuries!), and was one of the first law schools to recognize the pedagogical requirements of an increasingly global profession.

Here, we will describe in detail what we believe sets Michigan Law apart. Our pedagogical objectives are to offer excellent instruction across a broad range of legal disciplines, to provide you with the theoretical and practical tools you need to become effective and successful legal professionals, and to foster the perspectives and experiences that will guide you toward a full and rewarding life in the law. But perhaps most emblematic of Michigan Law is its intimate and collaborative community of students, scholars, and practitioners. Michigan Law is more than just a legal education. The foundation, experience, and connections you develop here will serve you wherever your life takes you.





1L Experience



1L Experience



The first year of law school is an immersive introduction into the legal profession that sets the tone for students' academic and professional careers.

Law school—in particular the first year—has a dismal reputation for gloomy intensity. And yet Michigan students and alumni are known to rave about their time in law school. This is neither a coincidence nor evidence of the Admissions Office tampering with the Ann Arbor water supply. It is, however, indicative of Michigan Law's approach to the law school experience, including the design of its curriculum.

As a first-year law student at Michigan, you will explore legal doctrines with world-class scholars and practitioners, you will have the opportunity, and flexibility to explore your own academic interests, and you will develop your practical skills in one of the most comprehensive legal practice programs among top law schools. The first year at Michigan will provide you with the foundation and skills to thrive both in law school and beyond, all while building close connections with your classmates and professors.

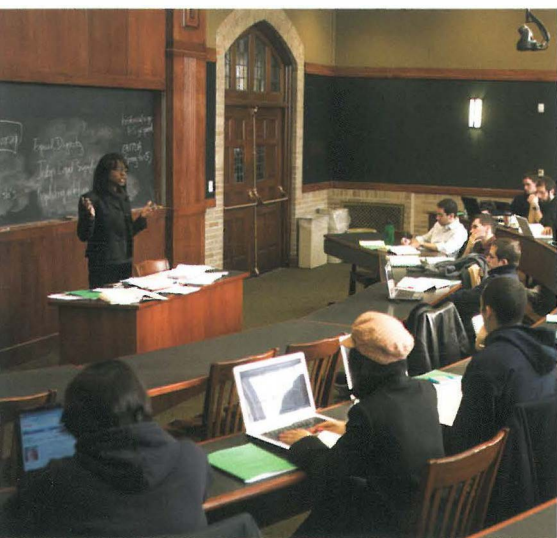
Core Doctrinal Courses

The bulk of the first-year curriculum comprises six required doctrinal courses: Civil Procedure, Contracts, Criminal Law, Constitutional Law, Property, and Torts. Students are assigned to a section of about 90 students, and four or five of these courses are taken with that group. The remaining one or two courses are taught to half of the section. The study of these traditional subjects helps you develop a common vocabulary not only with your classmates, but also with your future colleagues, as it is an experience shared by almost all lawyers.

At Michigan, however, you will be taught by scholars who are leaders in their fields. Your professor in any given first-year course will likely have written the textbook, published major law review articles or treatises on the subject, or argued relevant cases before the Supreme Court. In fact, the majority of first-year class sections are taught by Michigan's tenured faculty.

First-Year Elective

In the spring term of their first year, students who began in the fall may choose a course from a group of electives in addition to their core doctrinal classes; students who began in the summer complete their final first-year course, and begin their advanced training, typically, with three upper-level courses. Each year, the offered electives include a broad range of topics: in a recent term, students could choose from 19 available electives. More than half of the elective offerings are seminars, which present a valuable opportunity for concentrated study in a small setting, allowing for more extensive discussions and writing assignments than in most first-year courses.





Legal Practice Program

You cannot be a great lawyer without being a great writer. The Legal Practice Program’s status as a critical component of the first-year curriculum reflects Michigan’s commitment to making great lawyers. By limiting class size to fewer than 25 students, the program provides you with individualized and interactive instruction in legal research and analysis, writing, oral advocacy, negotiations, and drafting. The training is led exclusively by full-time clinical professors with an average of nine years of experience as a lawyer, rather than by adjunct professors or recent graduates.

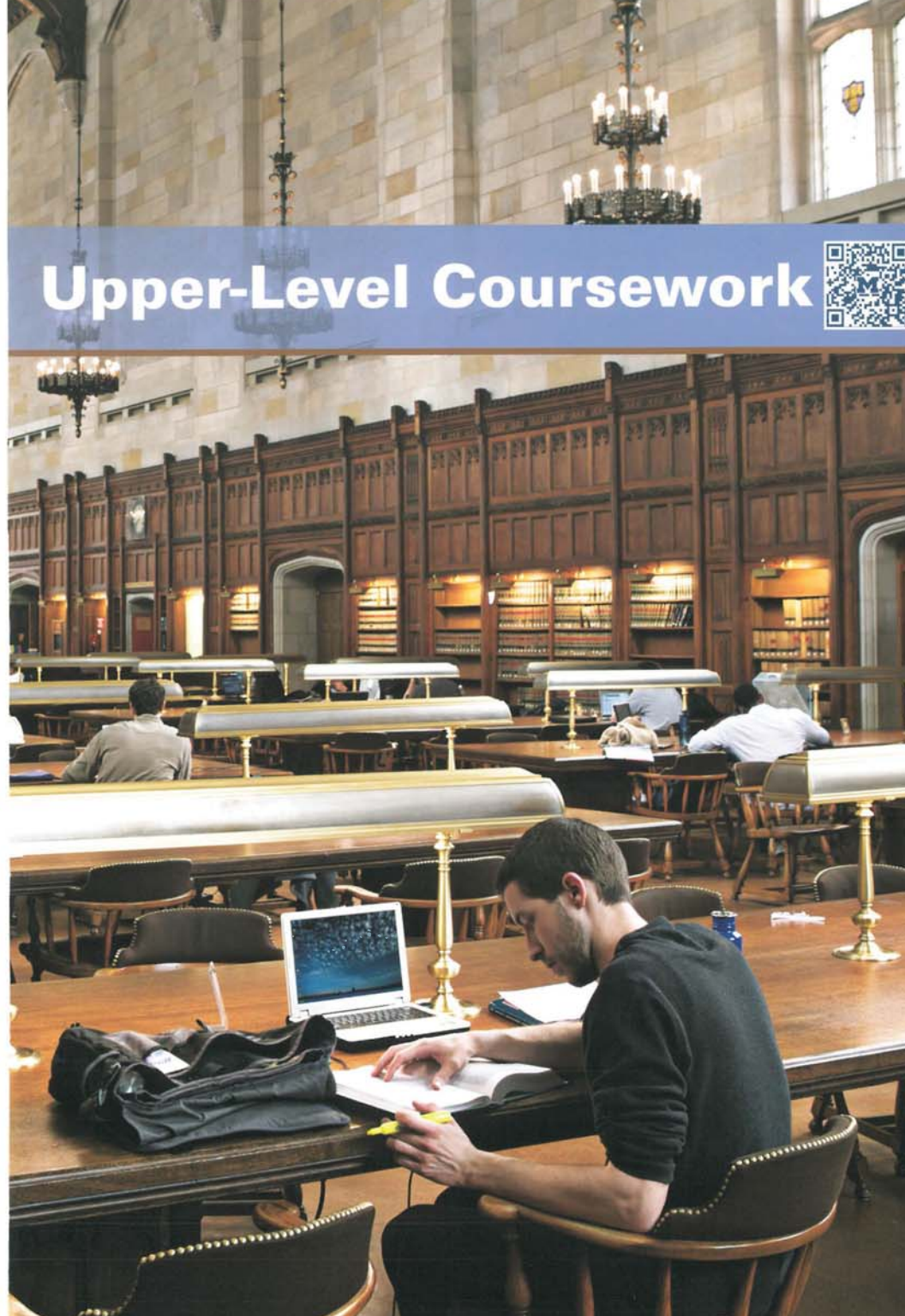
The first term of the program involves a series of research and writing assignments focusing on objective analysis of legal questions. By the end of the term, you will know how to approach and research an unfamiliar legal question with confidence, as well as how to present your analysis effectively in a legal memorandum (with proper citation!). The second term shifts the focus from counseling to advocacy. You will draft briefs for pre-trial and trial motions and present oral arguments to a judge or panel of judges. In addition, you will take part in exercises training you in contract drafting and negotiations. Your professor will meet with you one-on-one throughout both terms to offer you meaningful feedback on your work. By the end of your first year at Michigan, you will be fully prepared to succeed in your summer jobs—and upon your return to Ann Arbor, to represent real clients as a 2L in one of Michigan’s 14 clinical programs.

Legal Practice Faculty

- Philip M. Frost, Director
- Edward R. Becker
- Howard Bromberg
- Margaret A. Cernak
- Paul H. Falon
- Mark K. Osbeck
- Timothy Pinto
- Thomas H. Seymour
- Nancy E. Vettorello
- Beth H. Wilensky



Upper-Level Coursework



Upper-Level Coursework

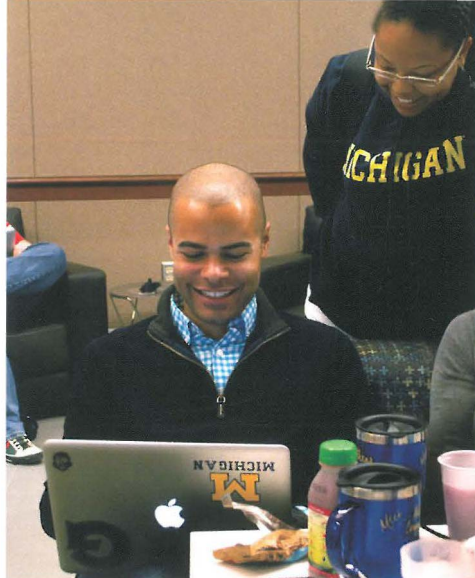


After the first year, the curriculum is almost entirely elective; only three requirements remain.

First, in the third or fourth semester, each student must take Transnational Law—depending on individual student inclination, this is a foundational course on which upper-level international classes will rest, or is a broad survey course designed to give a practical and comprehensive grounding for a domestically focused career. Second, before graduating, each student must take a course exploring legal ethics and professional responsibility. Third and finally, all graduates must have completed a course with a substantial writing component.

As a second- and third-year law student, you will have your pick from a vast and varied selection of courses, both inside and outside the Law Quad. But Michigan offers more than just the breadth and depth of courses to be expected from any top law school; the curricular programs and opportunities are at the heart of what makes us Michigan Law.

Interdisciplinarity



You may have noticed by now that “interdisciplinary” is nearly our mantra at Michigan Law. This is a reflection not only of the resources that come with being at the center of a world-class university, but also, of course, of the importance we place on this value. The interdisciplinary approach is grounded in the conviction that the capacity to connect the work of one intellectual field to another has both intrinsic academic merit and pragmatic value. Whether our graduates pursue legal practice or academia, or apply their legal training to another field, they benefit from having been trained to approach problems from multiple perspectives and to devise solutions that draw upon the contributions of many fields. Often, this is intuitive: A corporate lawyer who is wholly unfamiliar with business training, or an environmental lawyer with no foundation in natural resources, are lawyers who are not able to navigate as effectively as are lawyers who have received the training available at Michigan. But even studies that appear idiosyncratic and unrelated to the law can result in unexpected and fascinating connections, such as the insights medieval Icelandic sagas offer into the valuation of injuries for the compensation of tort victims.

While many schools have come to recognize the benefits of interdisciplinary training, Michigan Law is the movement’s historic leader and current standard-bearer. The expertise of the Law School faculty covers an extraordinary range of subjects, including classics, economics, feminist theory, history, life sciences, natural resources, philosophy, political theory, and public policy. But Michigan’s interdisciplinary opportunities extend far beyond the Law School faculty. The University of Michigan is one of higher education’s most dynamic intellectual, social, and cultural environments, with top-ranked graduate programs in social sciences, the humanities, engineering, business, medicine, education, information, natural resources, public health, public policy, and social work.

In keeping with its interdisciplinary culture, the Law School encourages students with interests in other fields to explore the unique educational opportunities available at the University. To that end, law students may count up to 12 credits from other departments toward the JD—and almost 200 students have done so in the last two years.

Dual Degree Programs

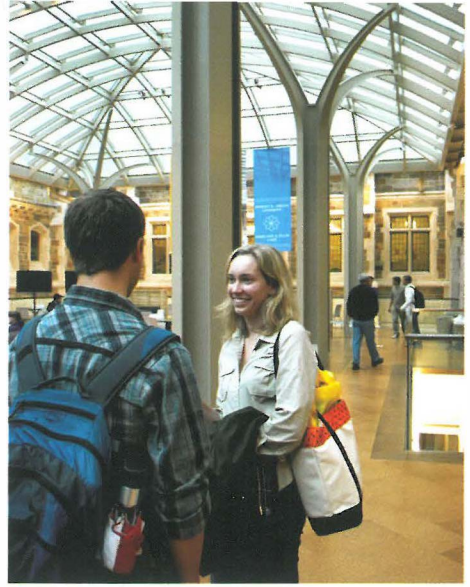
Many law students find that their goals are best served by delving even deeper into and earning a degree in another field. At Michigan Law, you are literally in the center of a world-class research university with stellar graduate programs. With 14 formal dual degree programs offered in partnership with 13 graduate departments, Michigan Law is an ideal setting for pursuing a concurrent degree to complement your legal education. Students with interests and goals outside the established programs may also develop their own dual degree programs. Recent examples of individually tailored dual degrees include American culture, computer science, engineering, kinesiology, philosophy, and sociology.

Students may apply for admission to a concurrent master's program in advance of or any time during their first or second year at the Law School. Typically, dual degree students will spend the first year in the Law School, the second year in the companion school, and the final one to two years taking a mix of courses from both departments. If you were to choose this route you would not be alone; at any given time, almost 100 law students are participating in a dual degree program.

Formal Dual Degree Programs

- Law and Business Administration (JD/MBA)
- Law and Chinese Studies (JD/MA)
- Law and Economics (JD/PhD)
- Law and Information (JD/MSI)
- Law and Japanese Studies (JD/MA)
- Law and Modern Middle Eastern & North African Studies (JD/MA)
- Law and Natural Resources (JD/MS)
- Law and Public Health (JD/MHSA or MPH)
- Law and Public Policy (JD/MPP)
- Law and Russian & East European Studies (JD/MA)
- Law and Social Work (JD/MSW)
- Law and Urban & Regional Planning (JD/MUP)
- Law and World Politics (JD/MA)





Interaction

Ask any Michigan Law students, alumni, or professors to name the best feature of the Michigan Law experience, and they will invariably invoke the culture and the community. It is a sentiment so universally shared that we are almost eager to hear someone express skepticism about the merits of the Law School's location. We suggest that urban campuses tend to be more dispersed because students and faculty have so many reasons to be off-campus. We explain that, in contrast, Michigan Law is uniquely positioned to reap the benefits of a small school—an intimate community centered in the Law School—while still enjoying the resources only available at a larger school supported by a premier research university. And we note that this culture is perpetuated by a selection bias; students and faculty come to Michigan Law in part because they are drawn to its engaging and collaborative community.

But geography and self-selection are only part of the story. The development of the community at Michigan Law isn't a mere quirk of history; it is the product of a deliberate effort to institute programs that bring students and faculty closer together, increasing the opportunities to develop active and lasting relationships.

One illustration of this approach is the Student Research Roundtable (SRR) program, geared toward students interested in pursuing careers in legal academia. In the SRR, students work with professors to develop and present research ideas at regular lunches. In addition to exposing students to the mechanics of giving a “talk,” the SRR helps students network and collaborate with each other as they receive advice and mentorship from faculty members.

The dedication to fostering Michigan Law's community is also reflected in the curriculum from the moment a 1L steps into the classroom. The policy that tenured faculty teach the majority of 1L classes means that law students can begin to build relationships with the faculty early—and that their first year is shaped as a truly Michigan experience. The wealth of seminars, mini-seminars, and workshops available ensure that every Michigan graduate has spent time working closely with both classmates and professors.

But let's be clear: The values behind the Michigan Law community are anything but a simple matter of networking and career development. They grow out of a concern for guiding students to careers that are not only successful, but also fulfilling. They grow out of a conviction that working hard and enjoying oneself are not mutually exclusive; if anything, they are mutually reinforcing. Enjoying your time at law school and developing a positive relationship with classmates and professors will have an intangible but meaningful impact on what and how you learn.

Seminars & Workshops

In contrast with traditional doctrinal courses, seminars and workshops are both typically limited to 15 or fewer students, promoting an even closer, more collegial relationship among students and faculty and encouraging a more sustained exploration of complex topics.

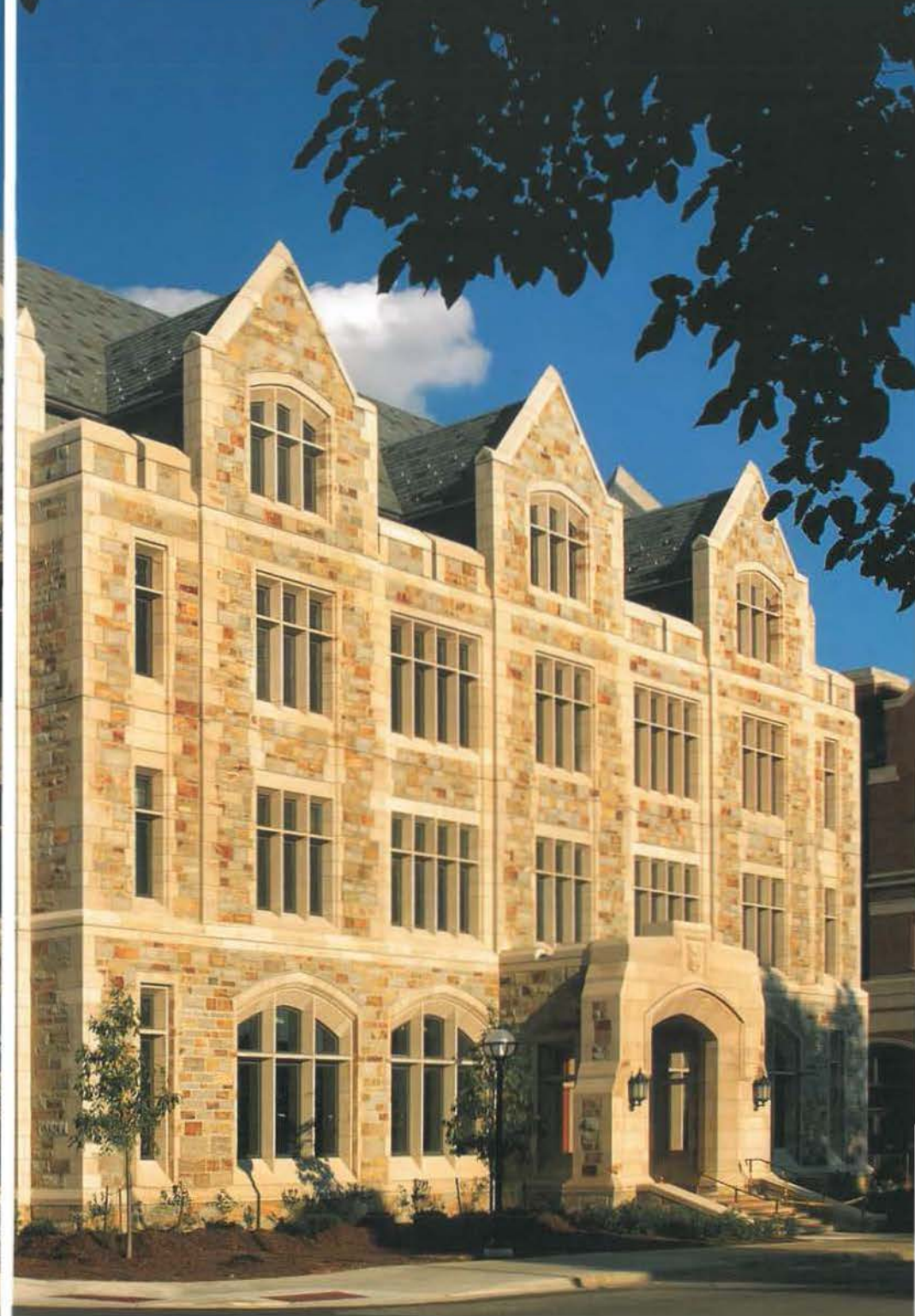
Seminars come in a range of forms; some are deep studies of policy pertaining to a particular area of law, while others are intensely practical and semi-clinical in nature. Most will involve a substantial, extended writing assignment. About 20 seminars are offered each term, providing an exhilarating variety of options that reflect the current academic and research interests of the faculty members. You can choose from something that's practical and concrete or notional and theoretical, and everything in between. Think about choosing from Punishment, Health Care Reform, Evolution of Gender Crimes, or Anatomy of a Deal.

Workshops, by contrast, all have a consistent form: leading scholars and practitioners from around the world present their research and experience on a weekly basis. Students prepare short written critiques for each meeting, where they engage the presenters and each other in discussions about the most pressing issues in a given field. Workshops allow you a unique perspective into the process of legal scholarship—and a chance to participate in that process—as you explore a broad range of issues. They vary by year, but typical workshop offerings include Constitutional Law, Environmental Law & Policy, Intellectual Property, International Law, Legal History, Law & Economics, Student Scholarship, and Tax Policy.



Mini-Seminars

You don't really know professors until you've had dinner at their houses while their children are running around in diapers. At least, that appears to be the theory behind "mini-seminars," a unique program Michigan implemented several years ago that has proven popular among both students and faculty. For one ungraded credit, groups of 10 or 12 students meet with a professor over the course of a semester to hold insightful conversations in an informal setting. About 15 mini-seminars are offered each year, and though the topics fluctuate every year, recent examples include Hollywood, Bollywood, and the Law; Topics in Reproductive Rights; Food and the Law; and Learning the Law by Avoiding It.





Skills-Based Learning

It may strike you as odd that we emphasize practical skills education as one of our core values and strengths. One would presume, after all, that law school is where you go to learn how to be a lawyer. But if you ask the Internet what you will learn in law school, it will probably tell you that it is just how to think like a lawyer; the actual craft will be picked up on the job later.

Since its inception, however, Michigan Law has been committed to providing practical as well as scholarly training. The 1860 course catalog explained that “the effort here will be to make, not theoretical merely, but practical lawyers; not to teach principles merely, but how to apply them....” Today, that effort begins with one of the nation’s most comprehensive 1L legal writing programs, taught by full-time clinical faculty. But the effort does not end there. Second- and third-year students may pick from an extensive suite of clinical programs, practice simulations, upper-level writing courses, externships, and internships.

It is more vital than ever for a law school graduate to possess practical, real-world experience. In the current legal market, cost-conscious employers are increasingly looking to hire lawyers with experience instead of providing training themselves. No less important is the insight such experience offers to law students who still may be discovering what they are looking for in a legal career. Recognizing this need, Michigan Law has deliberately and dramatically increased its experiential, skills-based offerings. In the last few years, the capacity of the law school’s clinics has grown by over 50 percent, the number of clinical programs has climbed to 14, and they have expanded in scope from exclusively local public-interest work to include international cross-border humanitarian work. Meanwhile, the course catalog is brimming with simulation courses designed to help students understand what it means to be a lawyer in a variety of contexts, from appellate litigation to entrepreneurship. But those are only the opportunities available within the Quad; Michigan Law offers unparalleled externship opportunities around the globe where you can tackle real legal issues.

More and more, Michigan Law grads—and their employers—are finding that graduates can hit the ground running, thanks to the experience they gained in one of the many skills-based offerings.

Clinical Program

Michigan Law's clinical program, one of the top in the nation, allows students to provide direct representation to real clients under the supervision of experienced, full-time faculty. Michigan is one of only two states with court rules permitting law students to begin representing clients after the completion of their first year of law school. With 14 clinics at your disposal, you will have an array of opportunities for honing your skills and servicing the community, from representing children and families, the wrongly convicted, and victims of human trafficking, to counseling small businesses, nonprofit agencies, and organizations involved in cross-border transactions.

The Law School's interdisciplinary emphasis infuses even its clinical programs. Situated as it is in the center of a world-class university with top programs in many disciplines, the Law School has partnered with other departments to provide the best resources to clinic students and clients. For example, a law student who is dually enrolled in the School of Natural Resources and Environment can use the credit she earns in the Environmental Law Clinic toward her SNRE master's degree. The Entrepreneurship Clinic connects with the University's engineering entrepreneurship program in working with small businesses, and the Pediatric Advocacy Clinic is the first of its kind in the nation where students partner with health-care centers to assist low-income families through legal advocacy and reform.

Our commitment to a global perspective also permeates the clinics, providing students with experience in international policy and cross-border transactions. Representing clients in Tajikistan, Russia, and Europe, our International Transactions Clinic trains students to draft cross-border loan agreements and develop microfinance contracts. In the Human Trafficking Clinic, students collaborate with lawmakers and international human rights organizations to combat modern-day slavery.

The clinical program is becoming an increasingly central component of a Michigan legal education. The growth of Michigan's clinics and the importance of clinical education are reflected in the Law School's new academic building, South Hall, much of which is devoted to additional space and resources for the clinical programs.

Clinics

- Child Advocacy Law Clinic
- Community and Economic Development Clinic
- Criminal Appellate Practice
- Entrepreneurship Clinic
- Environmental Law Clinic
- Federal Appellate Litigation Clinic
- General Clinic
- Human Trafficking Clinic
- International Transactions Clinic
- Juvenile Justice Clinic
- Low Income Taxpayer Clinic
- Mediation Clinic
- Michigan Innocence Clinic
- Pediatric Advocacy Clinic

Practice Simulations and Upper-Level Writing Courses

Michigan Law offers a wide selection of practice simulations and upper-level writing courses that combine both doctrinal and skills-based, experiential learning. By working through the stages of mock or actual cases, students acquire extensive practical drafting experience and develop specialized expertise in a particular area of law.

A typical term offers about 15 practice simulation courses with varied formats and topics. The wealth of opportunities covers a broad range of skills, including advanced research, litigation, transactions, business planning, estate planning, mediation, and alternative dispute resolution. For example, in Advanced Appellate Advocacy, students intensively examine the practical and theoretical underpinnings of appellate practice—record development, doctrinal analysis, litigation theory creation, brief writing, amicus strategies, and oral advocacy—through the simulation of an actual case. Other courses explore the different issues and tasks arising in a more subject-driven practice area. In Advanced IP Practice, students tackle several real-life cases raising contemporary issues such as social networking, game platforms and development, entrepreneurship, licensing, user-generated content, and website terms of use, and how these issues are intertwined with trademark, copyright, right of publicity, right of privacy, and trade-secret principles. Assignments include preparing and filing applications to register copyrights and trademarks, drafting plagiarism policies, advising start-up companies on intellectual property strategy, and structuring license agreements.



Externships & Internships

Michigan's externship program is designed to provide students with immersive, real-world legal experience and advanced research opportunities beyond what is separately available in either a classroom or a clinic. Externs can spend a semester working full time with a nonprofit or governmental organization under the guidance of a faculty sponsor and an attorney supervisor. This work is supplemented by an in-depth report on the externship experience, as well as a seminar-style independent research paper on a related topic. Students may also choose to do a part-time externship with local legal employers.

Because you design your own program, externships uniquely and directly benefit your personal educational and professional goals. Recent externship placements have been all over the map in terms of both geography and content: the Habeas Corpus Research Center and Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach, both in San Francisco; the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs in New York City; the Food and Drug Administration in Washington, DC; the Financial Action Task Force and the International Court of Arbitration, both in Paris; and the Human Rights Law Network in New Delhi.

Following are the formal programs the Law School has established in addition to individually arranged externships.

Geneva Externship Program

Since 2008, Michigan Law has offered winter term externships in Geneva with leading intergovernmental and nongovernmental institutions. This prestigious program offers an unparalleled opportunity to explore how international legal regimes intersect with such diverse fields as the environment, health, human rights, intellectual property, labor, telecommunications, and trade. Externs participate in a contemporaneous seminar intended to provide them substantive context for their externships by focusing on the roles and practices of international organizations and NGOs and the place of law in their work.

South Africa Externship Program

For more than 15 years, up to a dozen students per year have participated in the Law School's South Africa Externship Program. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity not only to experience the diverse culture of South Africa, but also to explore a new and unique legal system and to participate in its development of a new society. The program places students with governmental and nongovernmental organizations all over South Africa; placements have included the Legal Resource Centres, Human Rights Commissions, and Commissions for Gender Equality in Capetown, Durban, Grahamstown, and Johannesburg; the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry in Pretoria; and various law school clinics throughout South Africa. Externs also complete an independent research paper related to their externship.

AIRE Centre Externships and Internships

Established in 1993 and located in London, the AIRE (Advice on Individual Rights in Europe) Centre provides students with a unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience litigating before the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the European Union. The Centre focuses on all aspects of individual rights in Europe under international law, particularly immigration and asylum law and related social-assistance issues, family law, trafficking and domestic violence, and children's rights. The Centre hosts interns from Michigan, Georgetown, and Columbia law schools as well as from across Europe. Externships for credit are available in the fall and winter terms, and noncredit internships are available in the summer.

Cambodia Summer Internship

Michigan Law's Program for Cambodian Law and Development provides an academic forum for the interdisciplinary study of Cambodian legal institutions and the role of law in the development process. The program's Pro Bono Cambodia Project provides supervised research assistance to groups working in Cambodia, including offering summer internships in Cambodia. In the last few years, students have worked with the UN Human Rights Center in Phnom Penh, Legal Aid of Cambodia, Cambodian Defenders Project, Cambodian Association for Human Rights, Cambodian Women's Crisis Center, and the Ministry of Commerce.

Refugee & Asylum Law Summer Internship

Established in 1998 by Professor James C. Hathaway, the Program in Refugee & Asylum Law offers the world's most comprehensive curriculum in this field. It provides for in-depth study of international and comparative refugee law, and for direct engagement with the process of international refugee law reform. The curriculum includes classes, a series of advanced seminars, an advanced refugee advocacy workshop, and a biennial Colloquium on Challenges in International Refugee Law, which brings leading scholars to the Law School to collaborate with student researchers. Top students in the program are awarded a Michigan Fellowship in Refugee and Asylum Law, which provides funding for a summer internship at one of the program's partner institutions (Amnesty International, London; Human Rights Watch, New York; Jesuit Refugee Service, Lilongwe, Malawi; and the New Zealand Refugee Status Appeals Authority, Auckland).



Internationalism

The 1837 statute establishing the University specifically mandated that the “Law Department” include a professor of international law. In today’s world of global interaction, virtually every area of law is affected by international considerations. From antitrust to civil rights to intellectual property to tax, the practice of law is enmeshed within a complex web of international and foreign rules, paradigms, and cultures. This is an age where an act as seemingly simple as starting an Internet company in California can have substantial privacy ramifications in Germany, so it is imperative that new attorneys are not just sensitive to that web, but have the skills to navigate it confidently.

In 2001, Michigan Law became the first top law school to require all law students to take Transnational Law. This results in a shared background among students that allows global perspectives to permeate all of our courses. But for any student who wishes to explore global issues further, the number of international law courses—taught by leading international practitioners and scholars—is truly staggering, as are the available study abroad opportunities.

Beyond curricular offerings, a great variety of symposia, speakers, pro bono projects, and student organization activities reflect a strong commitment to global affairs, much of it coming under the aegis of the Center for International and Comparative Law. Topics are as varied as intelligence gathering and international law, the impact of journalists and lawyers on legal reform in China, and corporate governance in transitional economies. Participation of eminent lawyers, public figures, and government officials from across the globe in classes, conferences, and workshops greatly enriches the student experience.

Study Abroad

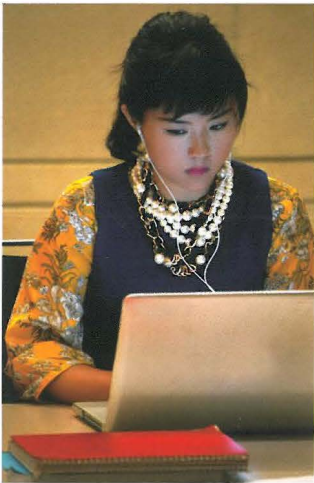
Given the increasingly transnational nature of legal endeavors, and in keeping with Michigan Law’s commitment to legal education with an international and comparative perspective, the Law School offers a variety of carefully selected study abroad programs at the best legal institutions in the world. Participating students explore different legal systems in classes with predominantly non-U.S. students, all while immersing themselves in another culture.

Students with interests in other regions may also propose their own study abroad programs at the law faculties of foreign universities. In recent years, students have studied at institutions such as the Austral University in Buenos Aires, the University of Hong Kong, and the Comillas Pontifical University ICADE in Madrid.

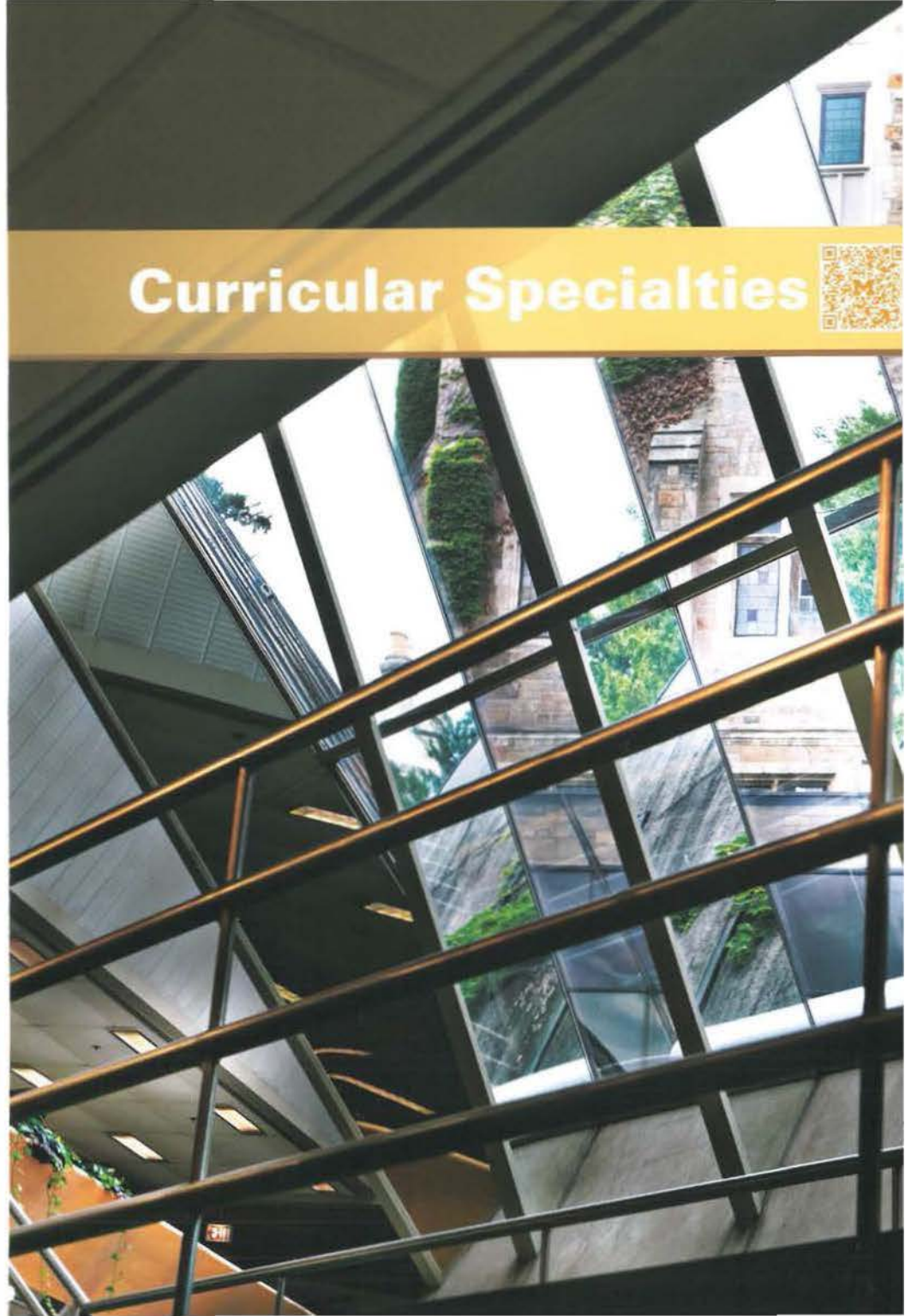
In addition to their course work at the foreign university, students studying abroad complete an independent research paper on a topic related to their overseas studies.

Established Study Abroad Programs

- Amsterdam Law School
- University College (London)
- Katholieke University (Leuven, Belgium)
- Bucerius Law School (Hamburg)
- European University Institute (Florence)
- Waseda University Law School (Tokyo)
- Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID) (Geneva)



Curricular Specialties



International Law

Faculty

Public International Law

Monica Hakimi
James C. Hathaway
Julian Davis Mortenson
Steven R. Ratner

Foreign and Comparative Law

Bruce W. Frier
Daniel Halberstam
Don Herzog
Nicholas C. Howson
Vikramaditya S. Khanna
William I. Miller
Mathias W. Reimann
Mark D. West

International Interests

Reuven S. Avi-Yonah
Michael S. Barr
Laura N. Beny
Daniel Crane
Kristina Daugirdas
Timothy L. Dickinson
Catharine A. MacKinnon
Edward A. Parson
John A. E. Pottow
Donald H. Regan
Veronica A. Santarosa
Sonja B. Starr

William W. Cook Global Law Professors

Susanne Baer
Paul Brand
Christine M. Chinkin
Damien Geradin
Brandon Hudson
Hwa-Jin Kim
J. Christopher McCrudden
Bruno Simma

Clinics

Nicole Appleberry
Bridgette Carr
Rachel E. Deming
Timothy L. Dickinson

As the first top law school to require all students to take Transnational Law, a course examining the foundations of public and private international law, Michigan Law ensures that its students are equipped to comprehend and navigate the increasingly global nature of legal practice. But the required Transnational Law course is also a gateway to one of the most complete sets of course offerings in international, comparative, and foreign law of any law faculty in the world. In the two-year period of a student's upper-level elective coursework, the Law School will offer more than 50 internationally oriented courses. This vast selection is made possible by a faculty whose legal expertise covers not only international legal frameworks, but also the four largest economies outside of the United States (China, Japan, India, and the European Union), as well as the development of legal systems in nations as disparate as South Africa and Cambodia. The abundance of seminars and multiple academic workshops allows for close study of global issues with some of the world's leading international scholars. These include our distinguished William W. Cook Global Law Professors, a select group of academics affiliated with institutions abroad who regularly visit Michigan to teach one course here per year. And students have ample opportunity to visit other institutions as well. Many students either study abroad at foreign law schools or work abroad in UN agencies or NGOs through one of Michigan Law's externship programs.

Of course, skills-based learning opportunities in the international curriculum are available in the Law Quad as well. Michigan Law is home to two cross-border clinics: the International Transactions Clinic and the Human Trafficking Clinic. Several practice simulations, including our unique Program in Refugee & Asylum Law, focusing on skills ranging from international transactions to litigation to alternative dispute resolutions, ensure that there are sufficient practical offerings to meet the needs of students with diverse international interests. The international law curriculum will provide you with the theoretical foundation, practical experience, and international connections to excel, whether your path takes you to practice, policy crafting, publication, or all of the above.

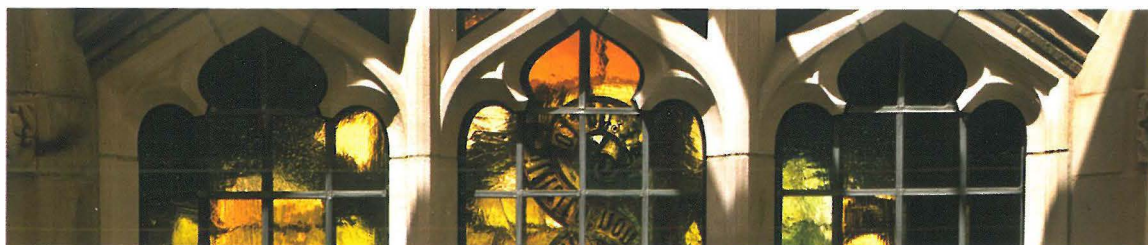
Constitutional Law

A foundation in the doctrine and development of constitutional jurisprudence is, of course, necessary in order to understand our legal system, our government, and their profound role in our society. At Michigan, this introductory course is taught by, among others, two former Deputy Assistant Attorneys General for the Office of Legal Counsel (one under President William Clinton, one under President George W. Bush), which is the division of the Department of Justice that advises on all constitutional questions for the entire executive branch. From the start, you will engage the constitution with faculty whose constitutional expertise extends beyond the study of history and doctrine to participation in the development of that history and doctrine. For upper-level constitutional law work, you can go in multiple directions to explore a variety of specialties in depth. History and constitutional interpretation, federalism and comparative federalism, and constitutional litigation and civil rights work are all amply covered, by a leading political theorist, by a preeminent scholar on disability rights, by one of the leading constitutional law scholars of his generation, and by an expert on comparative federalism.

For those students who want to engage in the highest levels of constitutional theory with the lights of the constitutional world, the Constitutional Law Workshop is an unparalleled opportunity through which leading constitutional law theorists from all over the country come to Michigan Law to present and defend their works in progress. Students read a draft of the work and provide written comments to the presenter, then spend two hours in discussion and debate. This intensive academic experience is particularly well suited to students who may be interested in careers in academia, and presents a unique opportunity to engage in the interactive creative process.

Faculty

Susanne Baer
 Samuel Bagenstos
 Evan H. Caminker
 Sherman J. Clark
 Steven P. Croley
 Samuel R. Gross
 Monica Hakimi
 Daniel Halberstam
 Don Herzog
 Ellen D. Katz
 Joan L. Larsen
 Jessica Litman
 Catharine A. MacKinnon
 J. Christopher McCrudden
 Nina Mendelson
 Julian Davis Mortenson
 Sallyanne Payton
 Eve Brensike Primus
 Richard Primus
 Mark D. Rosenbaum
 Margo Schlanger
 Gil Seinfeld
 Christina B. Whitman



Intellectual Property Law

More than ever before, intellectual property is intertwined with all human activity, from sharing photos with friends to allergy management to the sowing of seeds on a farm on the other side of the globe. It is a component of every business and its legal regimes determine how and whether people have access to knowledge.

The intellectual property program at Michigan Law is the epitome of the particular blend of scholarly and practical approaches that we believe is so crucial to a legal education. On the one hand, old models of intellectual property rights and interests have strained to adapt to the new realities of our digital and biotechnological age. In such a period of reform, a foundation in the origins, development, and policies of intellectual property law is invaluable to an attorney working in the field. Beyond doctrinal courses in copyright, patent, trademark, and cyber law, Michigan Law offers an abundance of seminar choices and an IP Workshop that brings leading scholars and litigators from around the globe to engage with students on their latest research topics or cutting-edge cases. On the other hand, the practice of intellectual property law is much more than theory and doctrine. At Michigan Law, you will have the opportunity to acquire substantial practical skills and experience, such as structuring licensing agreements, preparing registration applications, drafting IP policies for organizations, and navigating copyright terminations, in classes like Advanced Copyright Practice and the Copyright Termination Practicum. In the Entrepreneurship Clinic, you will get to use these skills while representing actual student start-up businesses from throughout the University of Michigan. All told, the intellectual property offerings at Michigan cover the range of doctrinal, scholarly, and practical formats with between 15 and 20 distinct courses in a two-year period. These are taught by a stellar cohort of some of the world's most respected scholars and practitioners of intellectual property.

The proximity of the Ross School of Business and Michigan's premier School of Information provides rich interdisciplinary opportunities to further delve into intellectual property as it pertains to business development and strategies as well as information policy. Of particular note for students seeking to explore intellectual property's relationship with cyberspace and developing technologies is the formal JD/MSI program with the School of Information.

Faculty

Jack Bernard
Daniel Crane
Rebecca S. Eisenberg
Susan Kornfield
Jessica Litman
Sallyanne Payton
Margaret Jane Radin

Environmental & Natural Resources Law

Michigan Law's rich tradition in environmental and natural resources law, dating back to the early years of the environmental movement in the United States, began a new chapter with the creation of the Environmental Law & Policy Program (ELPP) in 2007. The ELPP has quickly grown to offer one of the most extensive curricula in environmental and natural resources law among top schools. Directed by David M. Uhlmann, the former and longest-serving Chief of the Environmental Crimes Section of the U.S. Department of Justice, the ELLP is home to a diverse faculty that includes nationally and internationally recognized experts on environmental regulation, global climate change, water law, environmental criminal enforcement, international law, Indian law, alternative dispute resolution, conservation, and land use law. With over 20 distinct courses just in the Law School—not counting interdisciplinary offerings in other graduate departments—you could not exhaust the curriculum even if you managed to take only ELLP courses after your first year.

But environmental and natural resources law relies heavily on interdisciplinary approaches, and Michigan Law is uniquely situated to provide students the interdisciplinary opportunities to excel as environmental attorneys. Students may pursue dual degrees or take individual courses in the School of Natural Resources and the Environment, the Ford School of Public Policy, the Ross School of Business, the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, and the School of Public Health, all within easy walking distance of the Law Quad. These perspectives can then be applied in one of the program's many skills-based opportunities. In addition to offering practice-oriented coursework, such as a conservation advocacy course taught by a former president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation, the program also runs the Environmental Law Clinic in conjunction with the NWF's Great Lakes Natural Resource Center and has helped students secure a long list of externship placements all over the United States.

With its excellent faculty, expanded curriculum, acclaimed lecture series, and annual conference on environmental law and policy, the ELLP has cemented Michigan Law as one of the top environmental law programs in the United States.

Faculty

Andrew P. Buchsbaum
Edward H. Cooper
Kristina Daugirdas
Sara Gosman
Noah Hall
Neil Kagan
Allyn D. Kantor
Howard Learner
Nina Mendelson
Edward A. Parson
David M. Uhlmann
Mark Van Putten



Public Interest Law

The umbrella term “public interest law” is difficult to capture in a concise, coherent description. More than any other curricular subset, it covers a multitude of substantive legal areas—civil rights, environmental law, child advocacy, urban development, poverty law—and practitioners might focus on litigation or on transactional work. At its core, public interest law is a matter of access to justice. Without advocates, the law loses its efficacy as a tool for justice and protecting rights. Many Michigan Law grads have devoted themselves to impressive and successful careers in the public interest; others have used their education to bring positive change to their communities and the world through pro bono and volunteer activities; still more have had multi-stage careers across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. No matter the direction your career ultimately takes you, Michigan Law is proud to provide you with the training, support, and opportunities to find success and make the world a better place.

Given the breadth of public service, it is not surprising to learn that Michigan’s recent offerings include about 70 courses related to public interest law. Outside of class, you may participate in some of Michigan Law’s more than 30 pro bono projects active at any given time. Some are right here in Michigan, others reach into New York, D.C., or Mississippi, and others, such as the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), take students abroad. The projects cover a vast array of practice areas—from human rights to consumer rights to criminal law—and offer the chance for in-person contact with clients or remote research, depending on your preferences.

While the pro bono projects offer you the chance to help lawyers with their clients and cases, our clinics give you the chance to be the lawyer. Michigan is one of only two states with court rules that permit students to begin representing clients as early as their second year of law school. Our 14 clinical programs all serve clients who otherwise lack the means to retain counsel, but they vary in topics from microfinance to human trafficking to child advocacy to environmental protection to entrepreneurship, and range in form from litigation to transactional and from trial to appellate.

As extensive as these offerings may be, they need not limit you. You may step out of the Law Quad and spend a semester abroad in one of Michigan Law’s formal international externship programs, or you may design your own externship at an organization of your choosing almost anywhere in the world (although Antarctica is unlikely).

If the opportunities seem overwhelming, fear not. You will benefit from the mentorship of Michigan Law’s Public Interest/Public Service Faculty Fellows, whose impressive legal careers bring extensive practical (and life!) experience to the Law School’s public interest community, and along with it an expanded network of contacts in government and nonprofit organizations. At Michigan Law, you will find not only the education and opportunities, but also the support and attention that will help you achieve your legal aspirations.

Faculty

Susanne Baer
 Samuel Bagenstos
 Nicholas Bagley
 Edward H. Cooper
 Kristina Daugirdas
 Saul A. Green
 Samuel R. Gross
 Monica Hakimi
 James C. Hathaway
 Don Herzog
 Alison E. Hirschel
 Jill R. Horwitz
 Ellen D. Katz
 Madeline Kochen
 Judith E. Levy
 Catharine A. MacKinnon
 J. Christopher McCrudden
 Nina Mendelson
 Julian Davis Mortenson
 Edward A. Parson
 Eve Brensike Primus
 Mark D. Rosenbaum
 Margo Schlanger
 Carl E. Schneider
 Rebecca Scott
 Gil Seinfeld
 David M. Uhlmann
 Mark Van Putten
 Christina B. Whitman

Business, Securities, Tax, and Transactional Law

No matter where your legal career takes you, whether you plan on starting an innovative community nonprofit, negotiating multi-billion-dollar cross-border deals between the world's largest businesses, developing policies and drafting regulations to reform Wall Street, taking on the health-care conundrum, or setting up your own practice, an understanding of corporate, tax, and finance law and practice will prove invaluable to you.

To get a sense of the unbelievable breadth and depth of the offerings at Michigan Law, consider the number of courses recently available: more than 50 in corporate law and practice, and about 25 each focusing on banking, finance, and taxation. These range from deeply scholarly explorations, such as the Law & Economics and Tax Policy workshops, to an increasing portfolio of skills-based training in practice simulations and clinics. Skills acquired in courses such as Transactional Drafting, Business Transaction Practicum, and Entrepreneurial Business Practicum can be applied when counseling community organizations in the Community and Economic Development Clinic. Or you can apply those skills globally in the International Transactions Clinic. But the best lawyer's skills are tempered by an understanding of not only business law, but also of business itself. To that end, interdisciplinary courses such as Law and Management of IP bridge the gap between lawyer and client. Others, such as In-House Counsel, and Law Firms and Legal Careers, familiarize students with the business of practicing law itself.

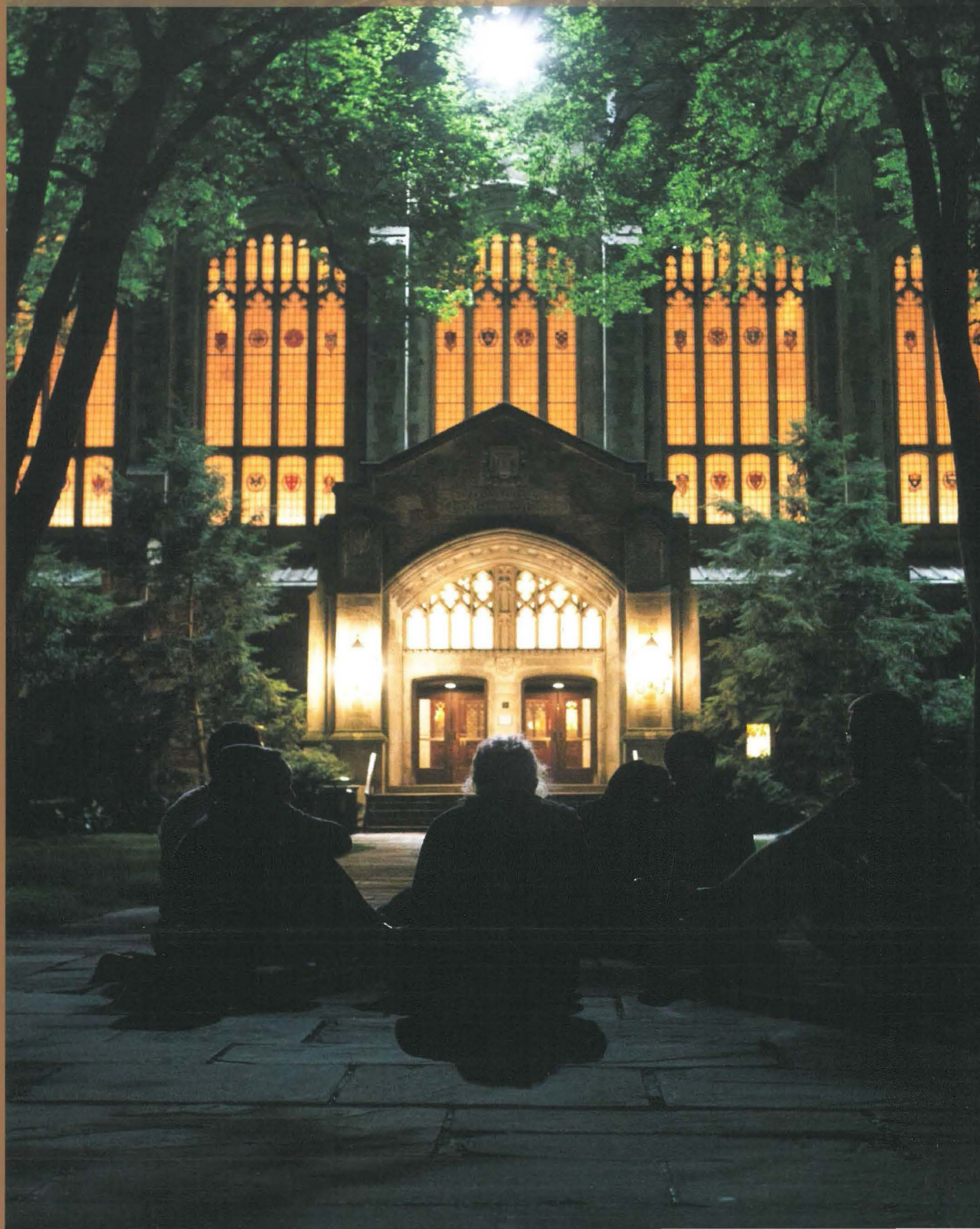
In whichever direction you decide to take your education, you will be guided by leading scholars and practitioners, including casebook authors, two of the top five tax law professors in the world, and the co-author of the definitive treatise on the Uniform Commercial Code. Their expertise spans the corporate law of China, India, Japan, the European Union, Canada, and Korea. And that list does not even count the faculties and opportunities available across the street at the world-famous Ross School of Business.

Faculty

Barry A. Adelman
 Reuven S. Avi-Yonah
 Michael S. Barr
 Laura N. Beny
 Deborah Burand
 Daniel Crane
 Alicia J. Davis
 Timothy L. Dickinson
 Jennifer Drogula
 Damien Geradin
 James R. Hines Jr.
 Jill R. Horwitz
 Nicholas C. Howson
 Douglas A. Kahn
 Vikramaditya S. Khanna
 Hwa-Jin Kim
 James E. Krier
 Kyle D. Logue
 John A. E. Pottow
 Adam C. Pritchard
 Donald H. Regan
 Veronica A. Santarosa
 Mark D. West
 James J. White



Toward a full and rewarding life in the law



An inscription over the doorway of an entrance to the Law Quadrangle reads, “The character of the legal profession depends on the character of the law schools. The character of the law schools forecasts the future of America.”

If you have read this far, you know that Michigan Law—like any top law school—can boast of a vast array of courses taught by leading scholars. (If you skipped to the end, take our word for it.) You will have seen that in the last few years, Michigan has adapted to the changing legal landscape by dramatically increasing the number and capacity of its skills-based and clinical offerings, while simultaneously developing innovative programs that take advantage of our unique community to bring students and faculty together on a range of interactive projects. And you will have noted (considering how often we have emphasized) that the products of these efforts reflect the Law School’s conviction that both a global perspective and a capacity to make interdisciplinary connections are invaluable assets to any scholar, professional, and individual. But more important, we hope you also have caught at least a glimpse of Michigan Law’s character through its approach to legal education.

A Michigan Law education is about more than mastery of doctrines, more than knowing which forms to file, and even more than learning to “think like a lawyer.” It is also about helping you achieve a full and rewarding life in the law, preparing you for a lifetime of choices in a traditional legal career, an alternative career path, or both. What makes for a full and rewarding life in the law varies from person to person. But that is exactly why we have created a flexible program, one that challenges you to delve deeply into your areas of interest while also encouraging you to explore and experiment. Yet ultimately, during your three years of law school, you will learn at least as much outside of the classroom as you will inside. The community at Michigan is dynamic, collaborative, and a lot of fun. Your Michigan Law experiences and connections will play a profound and lasting role in both your professional life and your personal life. They will equip you, as they have equipped over 150 years of Michigan Law graduates, to be innovators and acknowledged leaders in academia, industry, government, the legal profession, and your communities.



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